(b) the achievement made in Orissa and schemes proposed to be taken up in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Seedlings are distributed by the State Governments under their social forestry programme and seedlings of fuelwood, fodder and fruit-berring species are given preference. Central assistance is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Decentralised Nurseries to the State Governments for establishing people's nurseries.

(b) As against the target of 500 lakh seedlings to be distributed in 1991-92, 421.11 lakh seedling had been distributed in Orissa upto end of December 1991. The target for distribution of seedlings is fixed on year to year basis, keeping in view the requirement of the seedlings and availability of financial and other resources.

Environmental Standards

941. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the minimum environmental standards laid down for different industries;

(b) whether these norms have been reviewed recently to make them more realistic;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement the revised norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) 55 emissions and effluent standards for different categories of industries have been notified so far under the rules of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(b) and (c) Representations regarding standards in respect of 5 categories of industries namely pulp and paper, distillery, pharmaceuticals, man-made fibre (semi-synthetic) and metallurgy have been recently looked into.

(d) Does not arise.

Criteria for 'Ecomark' label

942. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have notified the criteria for issue of 'Ecomark' label on consumer products;

(b) if so, th e details of the criteria and the objective behind it;

(c) the details of consumer items identified for the purpose; and

(d) whether Government have received objections, if any, from producers against the notification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government have notified the parameters to be used to determine the criteria for issue of Ecomark label for various products vide Gazette of India dated 21st February, 1991. These parameters are:

(i) Production process including source of raw material;

(ii) Case of natural resources;

(iii) Likely impact on the environment;

(iv) Energy Conservation in the pro-production of the product;

(v) Effect and extent of waste arising from the production process;

(vi) Disposal of the product and its container;

(vii) Utilisation of waste and recycled materials;

(viii) Suitability for recycling or packaging;

(ix) Biodegradability.

That objective behind these parameters is that any product which is made, used or disposed of in a way that significantly reduces the harm it would otherwise cause to the environment, could be considered as Environment Friendly Product.

(c) Sixteen Categories of Consumer Products have been identified to be taken up in the first phase under the scheme of labelling of Environment Friendly Products and for which primary criteria are to be decided. These are:—Soaps & Detergents, plastics, food items (such as edible oil, tea, Coffeet, baby food, processed foods, beverages), papers, Textiles and Diapers, preservatives and food additives. Cosmetics (e.g. shampoo, lipstics, face powder), paints, Batteries, Lubricating oil packaging, Aerosol, pesticides, insecticides, biocides & weedicides, drugs, electrical goods/electronic goods and wood substitutes.

(d) No, Sir.

Plucking Green Amla Trees by Mafias

943. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some mafias, with the connivance of forest officials, pluk gree 'Amla' from the forests of Madhya Pradesh bordering Uttar Pradesh in a big way and smuggle it to the factories in U.P. for manufacturing Ayurvedic medicines on high prices;

(b) whether Government are also aware that while plucking green Amla the branches of the trees are also destroyed which results in premature death of Amla trees which is destroying the forests in the State; and

(c) what remedial action have taken or propose to take to save the Amla jungles and the source of livelihood of the tribals in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) It has been reported by the State Government that there is no mafia operating in Madhya Pradesh in connivance with the forest officials for plucking green 'Amla' from the forests of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) No instance of 'Amla' trees drying or dying due to plucking of green :Amla' in the State of Madhya Pradesh leading to destruction of forests has been reported.

(c) Does not arise.

Rural Fuelwood Plantation and Afforestation of Eco-Sensitive Non-Himalayan area

944. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made and the achievements under the Centrally sponsored scheme "Rural Fuelwood Plantation and afforestation of eco-sensitive non-Himalayan areas" in the country; and

(b) the details of funds allocated to Orissa so far, the species planted and the achievements made, district-wise in Orissa.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) During the Seventh Plan period (1985-1886 to 1989-90) Rs. 85.46 crores were provided as Central assistances to the State Governments under the Centrally sponsored scheme of "Rural" Fuelwood Plantations and Afforestation of Eco-sensitive Non-Himalayan areas". Total area of about 4.15 lakh hectares was covered under the scheme. At the end of the Seventh Plan, the scheme has been merged with the Centrally sponsored scheme for Fuelwood and Fodder Projects.

(b) (i) The year-wise details of Central assistance provided under the above-mentioned scheme to Orissa during the